

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 4 to include the legend "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

Attachment:

Annotated Sheet showing Changes

Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 remain in the application with claims 1-11, 13-23, 25-35, and 37-39 having been amended hereby.

Applicant hereby confirms the election for examination of species I.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings.

Fig. 4 has been amended hereby as required by the Examiner to include the legend "Prior Art". Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for Fig. 4.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to claims 2, 8, and 9 under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite.

Claims 2, 8, and 9 have been amended hereby to properly refer to the prescribed unit of time. The remaining claims in the application have also been amended to correct this point.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, 32, and 37-39 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Applicant's so-called admitted prior art.

The present invention relates to an audio signal processing method that is intended to speed up providing localization or processing for audio signals when there are a plurality of changes in the information within a prescribed unit of time. The information might consist of position information, movement

information, and audio localization information. This is accomplished in the present invention by generating only a single information change at the end of the prescribed unit of time based on the plurality of changes in the information. This is explained in the present specification, for example, at page 11 in the paragraph commencing at line 6. Moreover, this feature is shown in Fig. 1 in which in the second prescribed unit of time (T) there are a number of changes in position movement information pieces that are integrated into a single information change at the end of the second prescribed unit of time.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted feature of the present invention.

In the prior art as described in the present specification, the audio processing follows the occurrence of the changes in information, such as position or movement information, and produces the localization processing at each occurrence of such change in position. This is shown at Fig. 7. In the prior art, there is no prescribed unit of time and a single information change is not generated at the end of such non-disclosed prescribed unit of time.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not anticipated by the so-called admitted prior art.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 2, 14, and 26 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over

the so-called admitted prior art.

As noted above, the present invention generates only a single information change in the face of a plurality of information changes, which may occur within a prescribed unit of time. In the so-called admitted prior art there is no prescribed unit of time. Moreover, in the prior art audio processing is performed for each change position along the time continuum, as shown in Fig. 7.

Therefore, there is no suggestion in the admitted prior art to divide the time continuum into prescribed units of time and to employ only a last change in information that occurred last within the prescribed unit of time, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 12, 24, and 36 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over the so-called admitted prior art in view of Inanaga et al.

These dependent claims recite the further limitation that the information for the audio signals can be modified according to user operations.

In Inanaga et al. the signal processing is modified based upon the rotation of the user's head.

Nevertheless, Inanaga et al. fails to supply the deficiency of the so-called admitted prior art relating to generating only a single information change at the end of the prescribed unit of time

based on the plurality of changes in the information.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 9, 21, and 33 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over the so-called admitted prior art in view of Harigaya et al.

These dependent claims recite the further limitation that the prescribed unit of time can be of a variable length.

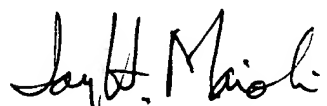
Harigaya et al. fails to cure the deficiency of the primary reference in that there is no suggestion therein to generate only a single information change at the end of the prescribed unit of time whether or not it is variable, based on the plurality of information changes.

Accordingly, there is no suggestion in Harigaya et al. to supply such deficiencies.

Therefore, in view of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that an audio signal processing method that when confronted with a plurality of changes in the information will generate only a single information change at the end of a prescribed unit of time, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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JHM:tb

**FIG. 4** (Prior Art)

